

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the Office Action dated March 7, 2008. Claims 1 to 14, 17 to 25, 27, 31 to 39, and 41 to 44 are amended for clarification purposes. Claims 9, 10, 14, 15, 27, 28, and 30 are cancelled. New claims 45 and 46 have been added. No new matter is added by these amendments or by the new claims. A Request for Continued Examination is submitted herewith. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account 02-1818 for any fees due in connection with this Response or the Request for Continued Examination.

The Office Action rejected claims 1 to 44 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0181234 to Falciglia, SR. ("Falciglia") in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0073480 to Thomas et al. ("Thomas"). Applicant respectfully disagrees and traverses this rejection. Nonetheless, certain of the claims have been amended for clarification purposes.

Falciglia discloses a game similar to conventional BINGO including a plurality of groups of symbols arranged in a plurality of columns (§118, lines 4-5). Fig. 1b of Falciglia, reproduced below, is illustrative of the disclosed game of Falciglia. The game of Falciglia selects each displayed symbol from a range of symbols associated with each column of symbols (i.e., symbol 105) (§119, lines 2-3). The game further includes a spinner displayed below each column of symbols, represented by numeral 108 of Fig. 1b (§120, line 10). For each turn, the game causes each spinner 108 to randomly display a selected icon from the range associated with that spinner 108 (§120, line 24). If the selected icon is a number matching one of the symbols displayed in one of the columns (i.e., symbol 105), the game covers the matched symbol in the column with a covering icon (§121, lines 2-5). An award is provided based on the symbols covered with a covering icon throughout three turns (i.e., spins) of the game (§126, lines 8-11).

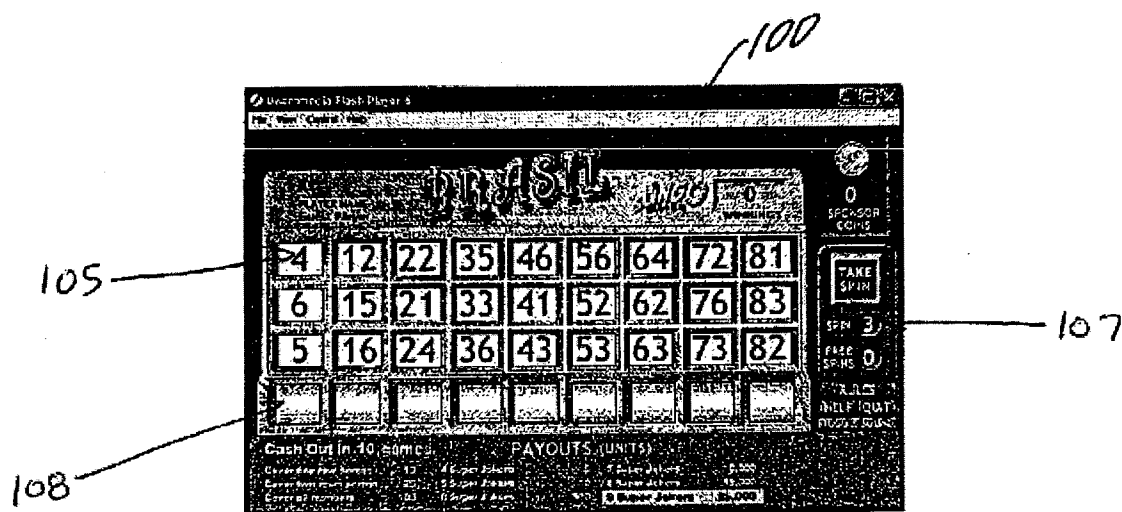
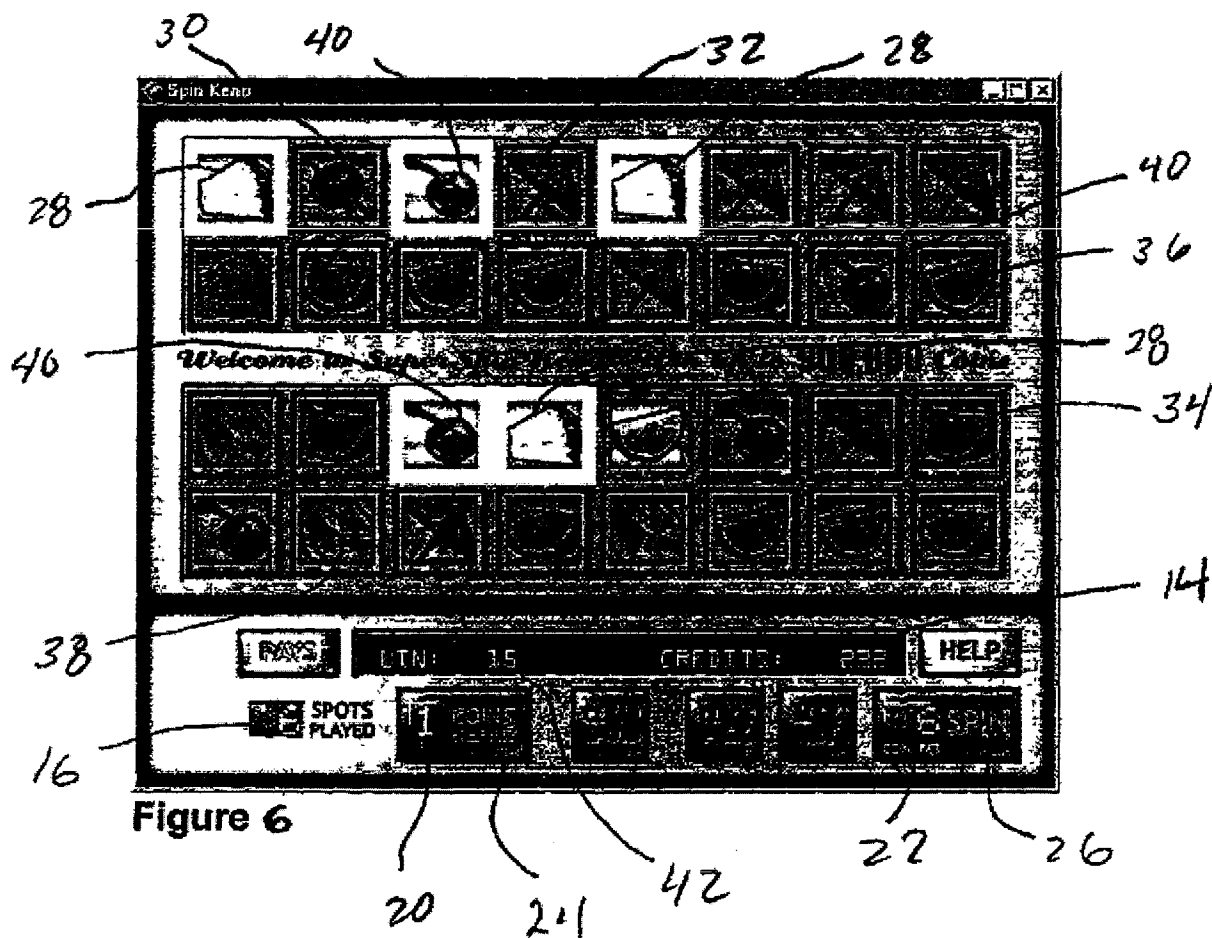


FIG 16

Thomas discloses a Keno-type game including a plurality of elements, wherein the player specifies the number of elements (abstract). Fig. 6, reproduced below, is illustrative of the game of Thomas. The player selects a specified number of element locations (i.e., locations 28 and 40, outlined by a heavy, bright line) from a plurality of displayed locations (i.e., locations 30, 32, 34, 36) and the game randomly assigns an element to each selected game element location (§18, lines 3-6). The game determines whether a winning combination of elements is generated based on the elements generated for the selected element locations (i.e., three pineapples for elements 28 and two cherries for elements 40) (§19, lines 2-4). The value of the award is based on the aggregate number of matching indicia generated for the play of the game (§22, lines 4-5).



Amended independent claim 1 includes, among other elements, a set of instructions which cause at least one processor to: enable a player to pick one of a plurality of selections, the selection picked by the player being associated with a first symbol from a range associated with a group of selections including the selection picked by the player; for each of a plurality of generations by each of a plurality of random symbol generators, determine whether the first symbol is generated; and cause a first award and an additional second award to be provided, the additional second award being based on whether the first symbol is generated for a play of the game.

Amended independent claim 19 includes, among other elements, a set of instructions which when executed cause the at least one processor to enable a player to: pick at least one of a plurality of hidden selections, the at least one selection picked by the player being associated with a first symbol from an associated range of symbols; cause at least one of a plurality of independent random symbol generators to generate

at least one symbol; and provide a second award based on whether the first symbol is revealed.

Amended independent claim 33 includes, among other elements, enabling a player to pick one of a plurality of selections, the selection picked by the player being associated with a first symbol from a first set of symbols, randomly generating a second set of symbols, and providing a second award based on whether the first symbol is generated by the random generation of a second group of symbols.

Amended independent claim 41 includes, among other elements, enabling a player to pick one of a plurality of selectable regions, each selectable region associated with one of a plurality of items, and enabling a play of a bonus game if the item associated with the selectable region picked by the player is generated in a matching sequence.

The Office Action admits that "Falciglia...is silent [as] to enable a player to pick one of the selections, the picked selection being associated with a first symbol from the range of the plurality of symbols...reveal the first symbol, if the picked selection is generated within the number of generations; and a second award to the player based on how many of the symbols associated with selections picked are generated by the associated random symbol generators within the amount of generations."

The Office Action states that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Falciglia to include at least one pick of the selections and to include an award provided to the player based on how many of the symbols associated with the selections picked are generated by the associated random symbol generators within the amount of generations as taught by Thomas.

Applicant respectfully submits that neither Falciglia or Thomas alone, nor the gaming device resulting from the combination of Falciglia and Thomas, discloses a set of instructions which cause at least one processor to: enable a player to pick one of a plurality of selections, the selection picked by the player being associated with a first symbol from a range associated with a group of selections including the selection picked by the player; for each of a plurality of generations by each of a plurality of random symbol generators, determine whether the first symbol is generated; and cause

a first award and an additional second award to be provided, the additional second award being based on whether the first symbol is generated for a play of the, as in amended independent claim 1.

Specifically, Applicant submits that Falciglia does not disclose enabling a player to pick one of a plurality of selections, each selection associated with a symbol from a range of symbols. The game of Falciglia includes generating a plurality of groups of symbols, similar to BINGO, and providing a spinner associated with each group. The spinners generate symbols without enabling the player to select any of the displayed symbols. Thus, Falciglia does not disclose enabling a player to pick a symbol. Moreover, since the player cannot pick a symbol, Falciglia does not disclose displaying a plurality of selections. Rather, the only input of Falciglia is the ability of the player to take a turn – that is, to generate a random symbol for each of the plurality of spinners. Though Thomas may disclose displaying a plurality of selections, the selections of Thomas are not each associated with a symbol from a range of symbols. Thomas discloses selections configured to generate a random symbol for a play of the game. Thus, the gaming device resulting from the combination of Falciglia and Thomas does not disclose the plurality of selections, each selection associated with a symbol from a range of symbols, of amended independent claim 1.

Moreover, neither Falciglia or Thomas alone, nor the gaming device resulting from the combination of Falciglia and Thomas, discloses providing an additional second award based on whether a first symbol associated with a selection picked by the player is generated by any of a plurality of random symbol generators for a play of the game. Falciglia discloses a game wherein the only award provided is based on a quantity of displayed symbols matched by one or more symbols displayed by one or more random symbol generators. Applicant submits that the award of Falciglia resembles the first award of amended independent claim 1, and that Falciglia does not disclose any additional second award.

Applicant submits that Thomas appears to disclose a game wherein the only award provided to the player is based on a combination of randomly generated symbols generated by a plurality of random symbol generators. Applicant submits that in

contrast to the combination-based award of Thomas, the additional second award of amended independent claim 1 is not based on any combination of the symbols generated by the plurality of random symbol generators. Rather, the second award is based on whether the symbol associated with the selection picked by the player is generated by the single associated random symbol generator for a play of the game. The second award is not based on any combination of symbols generated by the random symbol generators, as disclosed in Thomas. Thus, the gaming device resulting from the combination of Falciglia and Thomas does not disclose the additional second award of amended independent claim 1.

Dependent claims 2 to 8, 11 to 13, and 16 to 18, which depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 1, are also allowable for the reasons given above with respect to independent claim 1, and because of the additional features recited in these claims.

Amended independent claims 19 and 33 each generally include enabling a player to pick at least one selection, the selection being associated with a first symbol, and providing second award based on whether the first symbol is randomly generated for a play of the game. Applicant submits that, for the reasons given above with respect to amended independent claim 1, and because of additional features recited in independent claims 19 and 33, independent claims 19 and 33 are distinguished over Falciglia in view of Thomas and are therefore in condition for allowance.

Dependent claims 20 to 26, 29, 31, 32, and 34 to 40, which depend directly or indirectly from independent claims 19 or 33, are also allowable for the reasons given above with respect to independent claims 19 and 33, and because of the additional features recited in these claims.

Amended independent claim 41 generally includes enabling a play of a second bonus game if an item associated with a region selected by a player is randomly generated in a matching sequence. Applicant submits that the criteria for enabling a play of the second bonus game are similar to the criteria discussed above for providing a second award with respect to independent claims 1, 19, and 33. Thus, Applicant


submits that amended independent claim 41 is also distinguished over Falciglia in view of Thomas and is in condition for allowance.

Dependent claims 42 to 46, which depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 41, are also allowable for the reasons given above with respect to independent claim 41, and because of the additional features recited in these claims.

An earnest endeavor has been made to place this application in condition for formal allowance and is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Response, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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